

IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, as follows:

Listing of claims:

1. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A hydroentangling apparatus for the production of a hydroentangled nonwoven product, the improvement comprising:

a hydroentangling support fabric comprising flat filaments, wherein said support fabric is in a continuous loop or made endless.

2. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said support fabric includes machine direction (MD) filaments and cross-machine direction (CD) filaments and said flat filaments include only a portion of said MD filaments.

3. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said fabric includes MD filaments and CD filaments and said flattened filaments include all of said MD filaments.

4. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said support fabric includes MD filaments and CD filaments and said flat filaments include only a portion of said CD filaments.

5. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said fabric includes MD filaments and CD filaments and said flattened filaments include all of said CD filaments.

6. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of 1, wherein said support fabric includes MD filaments and CD filaments and said flat filaments include a combination of said MD filaments and said CD filaments.

7. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said support fabric is a multilayer weave fabric and said flat filaments are incorporated into only one layer.

8. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said one layer of said support fabric is the wear side layer.
9. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said one layer of said support fabric is the forming side layer.
10. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said fabric is a triple layer fabric and said flattened filaments are incorporated into only one layer.
11. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said one layer of said fabric is the wear side layer.
12. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said one layer is the forming side layer.
13. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the permeability of said support fabric is greater than 350 cfm.

14-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) [[A]] An improved hydroentangling support fabric in a hydroentangling apparatus for a hydroentangling process production of a hydroentangled nonwoven product, said support fabric the improvement comprising:

said hydroentangling support fabric comprising flat filaments, wherein said flat filaments are incorporated into said support fabric during production of said support fabric, and wherein said support fabric is in a continuous loop or made endless.

24. (Withdrawn) The support fabric in the hydroentangling apparatus of claim 23, wherein said flattened filaments are formed through extrusion prior to weaving of said support fabric.

25. (Previously Presented) The support fabric in the hydroentangling apparatus of claim 23, wherein said flat filaments are formed by calendering non-flat filaments prior to weaving of said support fabric.

26. (Previously Presented) The support fabric in the hydroentangling apparatus of claim 23, wherein said flat filaments are formed by calendering a source fabric.

27. (Previously Presented) The support fabric in the hydroentangling apparatus of claim 26, wherein said calendering is applied to only one side of said source fabric.

28. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The support fabric in the hydroentangling apparatus ~~as set forth in~~ of claim 26, wherein said calendering is applied to ~~only~~ both sides of said source fabric.

29. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The support fabric in the hydroentangling apparatus ~~as set forth in~~ of claim 23, wherein said flattened filaments are formed by sanding a source fabric.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (New) The support fabric in the hydroentangling apparatus of claim 23, wherein said flat filaments are incorporated into said support fabric during production of said support fabric.